

IN MEMORIAM

Alan Dale

Alan Dale, who died on 26th December 1988, was a founder-member of the Dover Society and contributed an article (on the rescue of "River Rec", in which he himself played a leading part) to its first newsletter. He was also known in the Dover District through his wide-ranging interests and his strong commitment to them. His unfailing courtesy and kindness were hallmarks of his life.

He was born in Leyton in London on 27th September 1923, but at the age of two he moved with his parents to Durban in South Africa where he enjoyed a happy childhood. The family returned to England seven years later, settling in Swindon where his father practised as an optician, and later moved to Windsor.

At Windsor County Boys' School he was a good all-rounder, taking an interest in sports as well as in academic work. The school had a strong tradition of Drama and Alan quickly became involved in this. It was a love which was to last throughout his life.

Early in the war he volunteered for the RNRV and was commissioned. He took part in the Malta convoy in 1941, and also in convoys to Russia, but most of the war years were spent in Motor Torpedo boats around the coast of Britain but mainly in the Channel.

After the war he trained for teaching at Borough Road College and eventually came to teach History at Astor Secondary School in 1954. He taught there until taking early retirement in 1981. During that time he was seconded to The Schools' Council for six months, travelling through England, Scotland and Wales to advise on the implementation of a new curriculum project. He also advised in an Army School in Dusseldorf.

After retirement from teaching he worked for Invicta Petroleum at their Dover depot until their operations ceased there in 1985.

Alan was involved in many activities; his membership of Dover Operatic and Dramatic Society dates from 1955, and he was also a member of Dover Players and Dover Dramatic Group. His love of birds and commitment to the environment involved him in the RSPB, Kent Trust for Nature Conservation, and formerly as a member of the Dover Bee-keepers Association. Membership of English Heritage, Friends of Dover Castle and Friends of Crabble Corn Mill, and his work for the Roman Painted House one day a week as guide, marked his interest in history and the preservation of our heritage.

He also demonstrated his strong involvement with the local community by serving as Secretary of River Village Hall from 1981 until his death. River formed its first Parish Council in 1987 and Alan became its first Vice-Chairman. He was also elected to serve as one of the River Councillors on the Dover District Council.

Membership of the River Bowling Club provided a sporting interest in friendly company and he was also a member of River Gardeners' Association.

Early in the war years he became a Blood Donor and he attended sessions regularly throughout his life. He would have made his hundredth donation this year, and his long service is to be marked at a presentation in London in

October. This says all that need be said of him: that he gave himself for the service of others.

He is greatly missed by his family and friends.

Mrs Alan Dale

Terry Khambatta

Our application form invites members to list their special interests and to say if they can offer "expert knowledge or experience". Terry did more than that. He wrote and volunteered his services to the Committee and it was apparent from the information he supplied that he was well qualified to do so. His background included a university degree, wartime service with the RAF, peacetime civil aviation and civil service experience and, more directly relevant, experience in travel agency and fund-raising.

In committee he offered friendly expertise and brimming enthusiasm in matched degree. He was full of suggestions for fund-raising, from raffles to Kent County Council grants, for catering and for the organisation of social events. We were delighted to have the additional help of his wife on social occasions and we very much hope to retain her membership and her services. He had the happy knack of generating ideas and effort from other people. Although he tried to do so, he could not entirely conceal his health problems but we were nevertheless surprised as well as shocked by his very sudden death shortly after a committee meeting and we shall very much miss his forthright contributions to our counsels.

Jack Woolford

CLEAN KENT

The Clean Kent Campaign has been launched by Kent County Council to improve the image of the County. Mike McFarnell, Project Coordinator, Dover District Council, has welcome the development as it will help and support his work to clean up Dover District. The prevention of litter through good waste management and the promotion of better aesthetic standards are the main aims. The success of the venture will depend heavily on the perception of people as to what is acceptable in their local environment. The Dover Society shares the concern and individual members can assist by reporting problem areas. Youngsters on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme have tackled a project as part of the community service action to clean up the banks of the River Dour.

Members are invited to give just two hours of their time to help clean up a section of the river. Please ring Mike McFarnell on Dover 821199 - extension 5179 if you think you can assist.

Mike McFarnall